THE

Batchelor's Eſtimate

OF THE

EXPENCES

OF A

Married LIFE.

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

Being an Anſwer to a Propoſal of Marying a LADY with 2000 *l.* Fortune.

Hæc Noſce ſalus eſt Adoleſcentuli. Ter.

To which is added the Lady's ANSWER.

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THE

Batchelor's Eſtimate, &c.

SIR,

TO the Propoſal you made me, for which I acknowledge the Obligation, becauſe, I am ſure it proceededed from your good Opinion of me, I return the following Anſwer.

You propoſe I ſhould Marry your Relation, who is worth 2000*l.* down, which is, indeed, a handſome Fortune, and ſuch, that I have the Modeſty to think I do not deſerve, yet at preſent cannot accept of the Propoſal, becauſe the following neceſſary Expences ariſe ſo frequently and ſo openly in my View, that, I muſt own, when I thought of Matrimony, they have, contrary to my real Inclination, deterred me from entering in to that agreeable State of Matrimony.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
I now live in Chambers which coſt me 12*l.* 10*s.* a Year, as ſoon as Married I muſt take a Houſe, which I cannot have ſuitable to me and my Buſineſs, under 50*l.* ſo that there will be a Yearly Increaſe in Houſe-Rent only.	37	10	00
Church, Window, and Poor's Taxes, Payments to Rector, Reader, Lecturer, Water, Trophy-Money, Militia, Lamp, Scavenger, Watch, Conſtable, &c. which I am now free from, muſt be paid, which cannot amount to leſs than	09	00	0
Expence of Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Sugar, and freſh Supplies of China Ware yearly.	12	00	0
To my Bedmaker, I pay about 53*s.* a Year; when Married, I muſt keep two Maid-Servants and a Man, whoſe Wages, and the Man's Livery, muſt, at leaſt, come to 20*l.* a Year, ſo that this is an extraordinary Expence of,	17	10	0

Coach

Coach and Chair-Hire, for my Wife to make Visits, to take the Air, to see Plays, &c. at a reasonable and yearly Computation	03 10 0
Her Expences at these Diversions	03 10 0
I now seldom go to see above a Play in a year, but, I now must, in Complaisance to my Wife, sometimes wait on her, and partake of these Entertainments (for is not proper she should go alone) which I Moderately compute at	01 10 0
It now Costs me about 40*s.* a Year in Coals, I am sure it must then cost me 10*l.* so that here is an other Yearly increase of Expences	08 00 0
The same of Candles in Proportion	05 00 0
My Wife's Necessary wearing Apparel	03 00 0
	127 10 0

Having a Family of my own, I shall diminish little or nothing else out of the Expence of my Dinners; as to the Evening Expences, you know that Married Men go abroad as often at that time as Batchelors, and I won't promise to be more luxorious than my Neighbours; so that instead of 25 *l.* a Year at the most, it now costs me in Dinners, I shall have the following Bills to pay Yearly, *Viz.*

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
From the former Calculation	127	10	0
The Butcher	35	00	0
Poulterer	10	00	0
Fishmonger	06	00	0
Herb-Woman	07	00	0
Oil-Man	05	00	0
Baker	08	00	0
Brewer	10	00	0
Grocer	06	00	0
Confectioner	02	00	0
Cheesemonger	04	00	0
Wine, Cyder, &c. at a moderate Computation	30	00	0
The Fruiterer	01	10	0
The Milk-Woman	230	00	0
Salt, Small-Coal, Rotten-stone, Brick-dust, Sand, Oat-Meal, Whiting, and many other Ingredients I'm not sensible of	003	02	0

So that deducting thereout the 25*l.* being the Charge of my Din-

ners

		l.	s.	d.
ners there will be an additional Expence of	230*l.*			
If my Wife pleaſes me, as I doubt not but your Relation will (I know my own Temper ſo well in that Reſpect) I ſhall be often making her Preſents of either Rings, Snuff-boxes, Jewels, Watch, Tweezers, or ſome other Knick Knacks of that Nature, on which one Year with another I ſhall expend	05	0	0	
Brought forward	235	0	0	
Then comes an Article I leaſt wiſh for, but happens in moſt Families, which is the Expences of Doctor and Apothecary, and and tho' it is accidental, yet one Year with another it can't come ſhort of	05	0	0	
As for my Children, I dare ſay, our Attempts in that Reſpect will not prove Fruitleſs, and that we may reaſonably may expect one every two Years, if not oftener, but it ſhall not be my Fault if do's not.	240			
The Expence of Lying Inn, Child-bed Linnen, Midwife, Nurſes, Cawdles, Poſſets, Cradle, Chriſtnings, *&c.* muſt at leaſt be 30*l.* ſo that if it ſhould happen once in two Years, it may be reckon'd a yearly Expence of	15			
Nurſing, Maintaining, Education, Cloaths, Schooling of our Children even in their Infancy, and which will increaſe as they advance in Years; beſides their Fortunes, which muſt be ſav'd or got, at a random Calculation of	30			
Pew in the Church — — — — —	2			
Waſhing my Wife's and the Families Linnen — —	8			
Repairs of Furniture, New-Brooms, Mops, Bruſhes & Rubbers	2			

The Furniture of my Houſe and Table-Linnen, cannot come ſhort of 300*l.* of which, 50*l.* for *Plate*, (without which, being ſo moderate a Quantity, I dare ſay, That my Wife, nor indeed I myſelf be ſatisfy'd, for theſe will lie dead, and bring me no Income, I muſt, therefore reckon my Wife's Fortune, at no more than 1650*l.*

Now

Now, Sir, as you have been a House-keeper, and married this several Years, pray tell me, if in any one Article, I have charged too much? Whether if I have not rather under-charg'd them, and omitted several? That I, not being acquainted with these sort of Things, can have no Knowledge of.

If therefore it is a moderate Computation, and Necessary, supposing Interest to continue at five *per Cent*, (which is unlikely) the produce of 1650 *l.* is only 82*l.* 10*s.* and if it should fall to four *per Cent*, is only 66*l*, in the one Case, I must necessarily expend to my Wife 231*l.* 10*s.* in the other 215*l.* above the income of the Fortune she brings, besides the Hazard and Want of certainty for the Money, which ought to be considered, and though it be Necessary, yet how reasonable it is, I submit ta you.

These things considered (and he that Marries without previous Consideration, Act very indiscreetly) I do not see how I can marry a Woman with the Fortune you propose, or that I should better my self at all by it, and in Prudence, People should do so, or let it alone; (not that I propose, or think to have more) I must therefore live single, though with some regret, that I cannot do otherwise; and increase my own Fortune, which happened to be sufficient for my own Maintenance, till, if I can so call it, I can afford Matrimony.

I wish the Lady all Happiness, and a better Husband, and if it be for her Satisfaction, one who has thought less of the Matter; not but I have a very good Opinion of Matrimony, and think of it with Pleasure, as hoping one time or other to enter into its List, but I now wait with Patience, till my Circumstances, or Thoughts vary.

One Things I would not have you mistaken in, is, that I do not mean that your Relation will be thus Expensive to me, more than any other, only that whenever I Marry, let her be who she will, I must Necessarily, if she has no more Fortune than you propose, expend considerably more than 200*l.* a Year on her, above the Income of her Fortune, and at present, I cannot perswade my self to be at so great an Expence, for the value of trying a dangerous Experiment, whether the Pleasures of Matrimony are yearly worth that Sum? All which is submitted to your Consideration by

SIR,

Your most obliged Humble Servant.

The Lady's Answer to this Estimate.

SIR,

I'VE perus'd your Letter of Expences, which at first View seemingly carries a just Calculation and was none to Calculate others, all or most of ake Men would die Batchelors, and those of our Sex wonld Mourn away their Lives in Sorrow, and the Kingdom become desolate in a few Years, and fall under the heavy Yoak of Bondage, by being Subject to the frequent Conquest of of other Nations. To prevent, therefore, the fatal Consequence of your mistaken Calculation, I take the Liberty to assert, That tho' you stated the Question, and pleaded the Cause on one side,

[that

[that my Lord Chief Justice *Holt*, rightly observ'd, That the Cause was always clear for the Plantiff; till the Defendant made a Ceply, and, I doubt not Mr. *Misgamos*, (you being a Lawyer) but you are accquainted with these Sayings, Yet, that you never enter'd into a judicious Consideration of these Matters, it is plain by the following Articles.

First, admitting, That you enjoy 400*l. per Annum*, which is making, as the Vulgar call it, a *Smithfield* Bargain, and my Uncle is to wise a Man, either to place me to a Disadvantage, or to aim to impose upon you.

You have allow'd your Chambers to cost you 12*l.* 10*s.* per *Annum*, you may here add the extraroidinary Expence of being let in by the *Porter*, and being lighted Home by the *Watch*, *Link-boys*, &c. which you having Servants they would save. 2*l.* 10*s*

You have put down the Expences of *Coffee* and *Tea*, —— 12*l.*

If you go to the *Coffee-house* in the Morning it will cost you for Breakfast 9*d.* to which, if add Gaming, it will cost you 30*l.* every Year, your 40*s.* for *Coals*, will be far more than 6*l. per Annum* augmented: When we find the many Hours you spend at a Tavern, will amount, at a Bottle a day will amount to a a greater Sum. As going to the Playhouse, Gentlemen generally bestow more on Town-Misses than honest Wives.

As to the Expences bestow'd on a Wife, a Mistress far exceeds them. besiddes the many Hazards you run in having your Pocket Pick'd of your Watch and Money, which you must loose, or be at the Charge of a Prosecution, which will amount to more than 20*l.* per Annum.

As to your Expences of Children indeed once in two Years I hear have been oblig'd to compounnd 3 times within these twelve Months 10 l. each.

As to your Family's Sickness by the Hand of Providence you for want of that of that paid Mr. Anodyne this last Year aqove 30l,

And ten Weeks maintaining a Nurse 10l.

As to the Furniture of your Chambers, I'll acknowledge that to be like that of your head worth very little. And as to the Interest believe me you do'nt under nd it, or you'd calculate your own better.

Yours, &c. PHILO. GAMIA.

BRITISH MUSEUM

FINIS.